

-THE N T CHURCH-

There is no New Testament church. There never has been one. You hear the expression quite often. Many churches claim that they are N T churches, but the claims are entirely false.

If such a thing as a N T church were to exist today, it would be a great wonder and marvel in contrast with the present organizations we see on every side. It would not need to train its workers with such things as Sunday Schools, Bible schools or seminaries. There would be little discussion or difference of opinion on theological subjects, proper conduct of the Christian, or other problems that plague and divide Christendom today. Why?

Whenever the New Testament is in effect, then "they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know Me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, sayeth the Lord:" See Jer. 31:34.

The N T church will be made up of Israelites. It will not be a Gentile church in any sense of the word. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a NEW COVENANT with the house of ISRAEL, and with the house of JUDAH. Jer. 31:31.

The above is not true of Israel today. They have to be taught before they can teach. Whenever the conditions of Jer. 31 come to pass, then Israel will begin the GREAT COMMISSION of Matt. 28:19. That is the commission of the N T church. Nations, or Gentiles will be the ones taught. They will be the only ones who will need the teaching.

To Paul was committed the gospel of the dispensation of the Mystery. Timothy was instructed to commit the gospel he had from Paul to faithful men who should be able to teach others also.

There is nothing in the Word to indicate that Gentiles will ever be a part of the N T church. They will always need to be taught. But they cannot rightly claim the prerogatives of Israel.

THE LORD'S PRAYER-

"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Here is one of the great crises of history. Israel had just refused their King and the kingdom. It was the opportunity to become the leading nation of the world, and they failed to take it. But now the Lord prays that they be forgiven. This means that they will have a SECOND CHANCE.

The Acts of the Apostles has in it the gospel of the second chance. If Israel would only repent, there would come the restitution of all things. As the 12 were being prepared to preach this gospel of the kingdom just before the ascension, they asked if at that time the kingdom would be restored to Israel. The Lord did not give a direct answer, but under the power of the Spirit, Peter at Pentecost made it clear that all hinged upon the repentance of Israel and the receiving of the New Covenant.

This prayer made possible the Acts ministry of the 12. If Israel had been set aside at the death of the Lord, then there would have been no ministry for the 12. They would have had no message. So it is clear that if the prayer had not been uttered and answered, then the gospel of the dispensation of the Mystery would have begun at Pentecost instead of 30 or more years later as it did. But if the church began at Pentecost, then this prayer was not answered. Did the Lord pray, as we so often do, with no idea that it would be answered?

This prayer also made possible the ministry of Paul to the Jew first. It even made it possible for the Gentiles to become partakers of the hope of Israel during Acts. If the Olive tree had been cut down at Calvary, then there would have been nothing into which to graff the Gentile believers. See Rom. 11.

This prayer made possible the writing of 1st & 2nd Pet., 1st, 2nd, & 3rd John, James, Jude; also, 1st & 2nd Cor., 1st & 2nd Thess., Gal., Heb., and Rom. The Rev. could have been written regardless. Think these things over. Read the Word.

-PROPHECY TODAY- 3-

The present status in Palestine seems to have many guessing. The events do not seem to fit in with popular notions of prophecy.

The Jew has been the subject of persecution ever since the servitude in Egypt. It is suggested that they were confused with the hated Amalakites by the Egyptians and so the chain of persecutions started. The Egyptians tried to destroy the race. Balak sought to have them cursed. The Babylonian captivity, servitudes and desolations cut into the number. The pogrom of Haman almost succeeded. Antiochus had many thousands killed. The inquisition made off with many more. Finally Hitler planned to kill 11,000,000 of them but only got 6,000,000 slain.

The greatest of persecutions is yet to come. (Matt. 24) More than 3 of the 70 weeks of Dan. 9 are yet to come. We know some of what will happen during the last week, but what of the times before that?

The Jews are not important enough at the present time for a world dictator to take much notice of them or make a treaty with them. Neither is a great world ruler in control of Jerusalem.

But when that time does come, the Jews will be a Christian nation. They will be, for the most part, in Asia minor or what is called Turkey now. It is very likely they will be rooted out of the land they now occupy and will have to take refuge in Turkey. They will be as a nation born in a day, that is they will swiftly accept Christ as their Messiah. This colony of Jews is described in Rev. 2 and 3. Then many will become lukewarm and worldly. They will be deceived and will make an agreement with the great dictator. After 3 1/2 years he will break the treaty. Then will begin the greatest tribulation the Jew has ever seen. The remnant will flee to the wilderness and there preserved 3 1/2 years. There they will pray the so-called Lord's prayer.

-THE REVELATION- 3

This book is distinctly Jewish. In it nothing can be found concerning the Dispensation of the Mystery or the church which is the Body of Christ. The events all will take place when the present program is completed and Israel is ready to say, "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord."

There are over 285 references to the O T in the Rev. It deals wholly with prophecy. That is why that the dispensation of the Mystery has no place in it. The Mystery was hid from ages and generations and was not made known till after Acts 28:28. Men look in vain today for signs of the times. It is not the time of the signs.

The Rev. was left out of the canon of sacred Scriptures by the council of Laodicea in 363 A D because there had never been a church at Thyatira. Four years later Epiphanius wrote in defense of the book stating that this was prophecy and that a church would be there some time in the future.

The Rev. was concerning things which must shortly come to pass. They were not to come to pass shortly after John wrote, but after the beginning of the Day of the Lord with which the whole book is concerned. It was about the things he saw in the day of the Lord, what they meant and what was to come.

It is too bad that so many have been taken in by the false teaching that the 7 letters represent periods of history of the present age. It is necessary to use history books and newspapers to interpret the Bible in such a manner. But it is capable of explaining and interpreting itself.

Some have tried to limit the Day of the Lord to certain boundries, but we must remember that the Rev. is about the Day of the Lord. That takes in quite a scope. Compare with Isa. 13:6.

The Rev. does not take the ministry of Acts into consideration, neither the present age. Its time of writing does not have anything to do with the message.

-STUDIES IN JOHN-

#21

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS: Quite often

1. What was Martha's confession?
2. Do you believe that here Martha trusted the Lord and left everything to Him? 11:27
3. Then what did she do?
4. Did Mary respond immediately?
5. Where did the mourners think Mary was going?
6. What did Mary say to Him?
7. How does this compare with what Martha had said?
8. Was the Lord troubled because of the death of Lazarus or their grief?
9. Why is it a comfort to know that He wept?
10. Why did the Jews think He wept?
11. What was their reasoning?
12. What was the effect of this criticism on the Lord?
13. Describe the grave.
14. What command did the Lord give?
15. What was the objection?
16. Of what did the Lord remind Martha? 40
17. Why did the Lord pray aloud here?
18. What then was His command?
19. What was the result?
20. How do you imagine that Lazarus could come forth when he was all bound up? Was this part a miracle too?
21. What part did the people nearby get to play in this episode?
22. What was the effect of this upon many of the Jews?
23. What did some of them do?
24. For what was the council called?
25. Who was the high priest?
26. What was his prophecy?
27. Did he knowingly make this prophecy? Why did he?
28. What was the decision of the council? 53
29. Where did the Lord then go?
30. What time of the year was it getting to be?
31. Why did many go up early to Jerusalem?
32. What had the enemies of the Lord commanded the people to do?
33. Does He still have enemies?

you hear folks wrangling about water baptism and what is the right mode. So often these folks do not know that there are other baptisms besides water. Did you know that a whole nation, possibly 2,000,000 people, were all baptized in one night and not even one got his feet wet? Can you find references to this?

I have here the book, **THE GIANT CITIES OF BASHAN**, by Porter. The author says that he saw many graves that were as much as 30 feet long. There must have been giants! But one of them had an iron bedstead. Can you find that in your Bible?

Can you tell me how old Jacob was when he was married? You may get a surprise when you figure this one out.

What was the average length of life of the patriarchs before the flood? Be sure to count Enoch 365 years. There will be a similar period again some day in which life will be long. Do you know when?

There are some wonderful stories in the Old Testament. They are still better than modern literature. What one is your favorite?

There are some women and girls in the N T that are quite interesting characters. What about Rhoda, Lois, Mary and Martha, Eunice, Lydia, Priscilla, and others? Do you know all these?

Often I have wondered about the little girl that was responsible for getting Naaman healed of his leprosy. Would like to know her name and who her parents were, how she got to Babylon, and what she was doing and what became of her. The Word tells us very little of it.

Which, to you, is the most interesting character, Ruth or Esther?

Which do you think was the worse, Jezebel or Athaliah?

Now if you don't know all these people, just why is it?

When Christians get discouraged and down in the dumps, there is usually just one reason for it. Bible reading and prayer have been neglected. Remember this.

Sincerely in HIM, Oscar M. Baker.

- THE EDITOR'S DESK -

TFT Bible Class meets each Tue. nite at 7:45 in the WRSW studios following the radio program. Some new ones were there last month. There is always a welcome for all.

TFT Radio Bible Class each Tue. nite at 7. It is over both AM and FM. Turn to 1460 on AM, or 107.3 for FM.

TFT paper is sent out monthly as the Lord permits. There is no charge for it. We will be glad to send it to your friends if you will send us the names and addresses. You may have extra copies for distribution, if you wish. Back numbers from #38 available. Help us to run the mailing list up to 3,000.

BIBLE COURSES can be taken over week ends here on the farm. Ask about them. Also why not plan your vacation here in Bible study this summer? Make plans early. Write right now.

VISITORS this month were Mr. & Mrs. Harold Border of Bremen. They just about missed me!

TAPES: The tape recordings can be furnished for machines with speeds of either 3.75 or 7.5 inches per second, single or double track. Be sure to give these specifications when asking for the tapes. There is no charge for these studies. But do ask your patience if we are a little slow in getting them out. Will try to get better organized with these as we go.

- OUR BOOK SHELF -

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FOUNDATIONS OF DISPENSATIONAL TRUTH, E.W.Bullinger.....	1.50
THE APOCALYPSE, E.W.B... ..	2.00
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All books sent postpaid. Sorry some are waiting for their copies of LIFE THROUGH HIS NAME. My supply has not come yet. Ask for catalog of Berean Publications.

TO NEW FRIENDS; Your editor has a farm of about 80 acres. He has a herd of 16 cattle, counting the babies. These have to make the living. Few crops are raised, but new hay and pastures have to be put in regularly. If you like golf, try a hoe in our garden this summer. The house is 1/4 mile from the road. There is a wood lot and a marsh. Our first thot was to call the place the Bramble Patch. You will have to see the place to really appreciate it. We like to have you drop in to see us, but it is a good idea to write and make arrangements first as I might not be at home.

THANK for all the nice letters.
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